

I support the removal of the Morse Code testing requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes except extra class. I also support the proficiency testing of no-code technicians on the rules and regulations required to properly work the HF bands. There are a few exceptions which allow automatic upgrade to general class without any testing. However, for those that hold a license which did not require any or very little knowledge of working the HF bands, there should be a written "upgrade" test created to advance to general class.

I'm not going to go on about the pro's and con's of code requirement removal as most others have but I will say that most of the reasons given to keep the code are well thought out but are blown way out of proportion. I just cannot see every CB'er going out and getting a general ticket, setting up a HF station and completely flooding all the HF bands. The required written testing will weed out those that don't have a genuine desire to become an amateur radio operator. I have many friends around the world which I cannot talk to over my amateur gear only because of the code requirement barrier on HF. I've resorted to voice over IP and non wireless communication methods, which is steering me away from amateur radio as a hobby and a method of communication. The no-code tech license brought many new hams into the hobby; I believe lifting the code requirement will do the same.

Thanks.  
George  
N9SMN